

## **IDIS Improvements FY 1999**

In the last year, HUD Community Planning and Development (CPD) has released close to 200 enhancements and corrections to the Integrated Disbursement and Information System (IDIS) in nine system releases (Releases 4.0 through 4.8).

CPD affirms that IDIS must function as an automated and accurate means for year-end reporting to HUD, Congress, and the public. CPD concurs with the General Accounting Office's recommendations on changes CPD must implement to improve IDIS.

The GAO recommended that CPD correct problems identified with IDIS before it is used as a baseline for developing the new Departmental Grants Management System (DGMS) for all of HUD's grant programs.

To accomplish the GAO's recommendations, HUD implemented a Stabilization Plan for IDIS in November, 1998. With the 4.7 Release on September 17, 1999 and the 4.8 Release on October 4, 1999, CPD has now rectified all the major concerns of the GAO.

In addition to changes requested by the GAO, CPD performed many enhancements at the request of grantees and field offices. An overview of the FY 1999 changes to IDIS appears below.

### **IDIS Data Cleanup Produces More Reliable Data**

- CPD identified activity and financial data that was inaccurate and incomplete
- Exception reports being distributed to Field Offices for CDBG, directly to Participating Jurisdictions for HOME
- Financial data cleanup compared IDIS data to Weekly Reconciliation Report with IDIS database corrected

### **New Internet Web Access Offers Efficient Way To Connect To IDIS**

- Requested by states, some grantees, as a requirement before they would use IDIS
- Allows more concurrent users than SprintLink; lets users take advantage of faster modems and network connections

### **With Electronic Data Interchange, States Directly Transfer Projects/Activities To IDIS**

- Redundant keying of data into both state information systems and into IDIS eliminated

### **Major Improvements To Reports Module Eases CAPER Process**

- 26 reports in Production, including new Summary of Consolidated Plan Projects (the old CAPER replacement), a new Security Report, and the CDBG Financial Summary report
- All reports received cosmetic makeover for better readability, quicker interpretation
- Users can now request multiple reports at once

### **"National" Training Sessions Held More Frequently**

- Grantees said training, while of high quality, not held frequently enough
- In 1999, held seven "national" training sessions in Washington, DC. Over 400 grantees from across the U.S. attended
- With internet access now available, CPD to begin on-site training for Field Office staff 1Q, 2000

**IDIS System Security Improved To Address OIG Recommendations**

- Completely rewritten security plan addresses areas pointed out as weak by the OIG regarding separation of duties and administrative and management controls
- Updated procedures for quickly handling a grantee who terminates
- Contingency plans updated for routine and/or emergency backup of data files

**Live Technical Assistance Plus Documentation Keep Users Informed**

- Technical assistance reps promptly answer inquiries, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., EST
- New IDIS Reference Manual uses friendly language, plentiful examples to teach IDIS to users at all experience levels
- New IDIS News page at login displays timely messages of interest to users
- Users test/accept changes on practice database

**Grantees Can Now Draw from Prior Year Funds To Better Manage Accruals**

- 90 day window after end of FY allows draw from prior FY
- Improved transaction processing between IDIS and LOCCS

**Draws Now Permitted Against Receipted Funds, After Commitment**

- Grantees can now create local accounts for program income, revolving loan funds, HOME recaptured funds, and CDBG state revolving funds

**Users Can Use Existing Activity as Template for New Activity**

- Users can quickly copy activity setup data (no financials) to a similar, new activity without having to re-key the setup data

**Users Can Quickly Reallocate Excess Activity Funds to Another Activity**

- If funds remain when an activity is completed or canceled, they are now automatically deobligated and returned to parent grant; user no longer has to use IDIS to deobligate them

**Program-Specific Screens Easier To Use, Contain More Edit Checks**

- HOME screens now displayed in more logical order. HOME activities cannot be completed until all required completion data entered
- CDBG screen processing modified to display, calculate, and retain data correctly
- ESG screens now collect racial/ethnic benefit data, similar to CDBG
- HOPWA screens now collect racial/ethnic benefit data; whether the activity site is owned by a public entity; whether the activity involves substantial rehabilitation; the number of jobs added as a results of training/employment assistance